

DDS&T #3973-66  
16 August 1966

*66-3826*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

THROUGH : Director of Planning, Programming  
and Budgeting

SUBJECT : Agency Implementation Planning for  
Community On-Line Intelligence  
System (COINS)

REFERENCE : A. Executive Director-Comptroller  
memo for Deputy Directors, dtd  
18 May 1966, subject: "CIA  
Participation in Community On-  
Line Intelligence System (COINS)."

B. COINS Committee, "COINS Imple-  
mentation Plan, "Report to CODIB,  
dtd 25 May 1966.

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 8 relating to the Agency's participation in the COINS activity.

2. Reference A. provides guidance pertaining to the Agency's role in implementing the President's desire for improved real-time communication of information between components of the Intelligence Community. This memorandum summarizes the efforts of the CIA Task Force on COINS to date in planning the implementation of the first phase of this activity.

3. With your approval, the CIA participation in COINS I will consist of the following:

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a. Inclusion of five active Agency files (listed and described in Attachment A). For the most part, these files are now under machine control and can be made compatible with the planned COINS programs and communications specifications.

25X1 b. Secure electronic connection of one computer in NPIC and one computer in OCS to the COINS I switching computer in DIA. Three user terminals in Headquarters Building would be connected to the OCS computer and 15 terminals in [ ] would be connected to the computer in NPIC during COINS I (see diagram in Attachment B).

25X1 c. Generation of query and real-time control programs to operate on the OCS computer. NPIC programming requirements under COINS I will be limited to adapting NSA programs or writing new communications programs to operate under the [ ] System on NPIC's computer.

d. Familiarization and training of Agency personnel in the use of the system, i.e., CIA/NSA/DIA files available and methods of access.

4. Accomplishment of the above implementation tasks is feasible by January 1967. This schedule and the extent of Agency participation is in harmony with the recommendations contained in reference B.

25X1A 25X1A 5. To a large extent, the implementation tasks are an extension of independently derived, but related, activities already planned or underway in the Agency. A general description of these related activities is given in Attachment C. The costs identified for implementing COINS I are those over and above existing Agency programs. This is estimated to be approximately [ ] including [ ] positions for FY 1967. Attachment D contains a breakdown of the costs and responsible components. These items are not now a part of the FY-67 Budgets of the Offices concerned.

6. Reference B. recommends that the second phase of COINS begin in FY 1968. This appears optimistic; the problems involved in the shakedown and evaluation of the initial phase and the design of an effective follow-on system are considerable. The COINS II goals are:

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- a. Remote access computers with automatic scheduling features installed in each participating agency.
- b. A uniform method of querying all files in the system, including the use of consistent entries for data elements and a single query exchange language.
- c. A data store and forward switch, installed in CIA, to service messages securely at high speeds between the computers in the system.

Estimates of the Agency resources needed to achieve these goals vary widely, depending on the particular design yet to be chosen and the experience gained in Phase I. For example, programming manpower needed to implement the query exchange language will depend on whether the language chosen is similar to any then available to CIA computers. Similarly, a wide range of methods could be used in implementing the store and forward switch requirement. With the following assumptions:

- a. COINS I will continue to operate at least through December 1967.
- b. Manpower will continue to be required at least at the COINS I level indefinitely.
- c. Other terminals connected to NPIC and OCS computers will have access to COINS files.
- d. Several CIA files will be added to the system in Phase II.
- e. The concept of a central store and forward switch as described in reference B. is valid.

the costs in FY 1968 could be as high as [ ] including nine positions and, in FY 1969, [ ] including seven positions. Because of difficulties which could be encountered in Phase I, the large expenditure in FY 1968 could easily slip to FY 1969.

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7. It should be noted that the climate within the Agency is one of caution rather than enthusiasm. Consequently, the effort proposed for COINS I could be characterized as minimal. The experimental nature of this activity needs to be emphasized; while the payoff could ultimately be great, overselling the COINS concept and overcommitting ourselves now should be avoided.

8. It is recommended that the Agency commit itself to the degree of COINS I participation summarized in paragraph 3 above, and that [ ] including [ ] positions be allocated in FY 1967 to carry out this portion of the program.

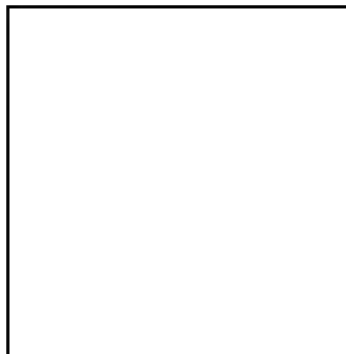
[ ]

CHARLES A. BRIGGS  
Acting Chairman  
CIA Task Force on COINS

Attachments (4)

- A. CIA COINS FILES
- B. COINS I SCHEMATIC
- C. AGENCY PROGRAMS RELATED TO COINS I
- D. COINS I COST AND MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS

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